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PROPOSALS

For Printing by Subscription,

The HISTORY

OF

The publick Life and distinguished Actions

OF *Gov. Pownall*

Vice-Admiral Sir *(Thomas Brazen,)*

Commander of an American Squadron
in the last Age.

Together with

His flighter Adventures and more entertaining
ANECDOTES.

In Three Volumes in Quarto.

Adorn'd throughout with CUTS.

Being the judicious Abridgement of the unwearied Author's
own most elaborate and costly Performance, in Thirty-one
Volumes in Folio.

By *(Thomas Thumb,)* Esq;

Surveyor of the Customs, and Clerk of the Check.

Ridentem dicere verum

Quis vetat?

Homo sum; humani nihil á me alienum puto.

HOR.

TER.

M,DCC,LX.

CONDITIONS.

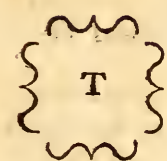
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--- Idea of the Work---



HE penetrating author first fashionably steps forth to us, with all the arts of modern complaisance, and real good breeding, in a very concise, sensible and agreeable *advertisement by way of preface* : He tells us, “ That of all the studies which so variously and deeply engage the letter’d part of mankind, to him it appears that *biography* must be allow’d the most useful, as it has ever been to him by far the most pleasant.— That the truest knowledge of human nature which can possibly be had from books and closets, is chiefly to be obtain’d in those most impartial and very interesting accounts of it, which from time to time one unambitious Author and another has been *sweetly constrain’d* to publish to the world under that most inviting title, *The life of a great man*”.

He tells us also, “ that for his own *following work* he can aver upon the antiquity and grandeur of his family which he traces as high as *any man*, that the utmost adherence to truth and *tenderness* is as steadily preserv’d in his (as he hopes) not unprofitably-written history, as the nature of the thing, and more especially his *design*, would possibly admit of. --- That however he may be found to have been betray’d into *obscurities*, into which by closely tracing his hero he must often have been necessitated. And however by this mean his hero’s character may to some appear too *extraordinary* and sometimes perhaps vicious; those *obscurities* and these appearances shall be fully illuminated and satisfactorily removed, and the whole character reduced fairly

fairly to the side of virtue and honour, in the appendix to this work ; which if my health (says he) but permit shall be ready to be sent to the press by michaelmas or christmas next”.

Thus much from his preface ; to which immediately succeeds this very various and wonderful history ; in which are fully display'd the hero's birth and parentage, --- his inheritances, education, and connexions, --- his remarkable infancy *childhood* and youth, --- the surprizing indications and exertions of genius in those stages, which were never observed more vigorous or brilliant ; particularly his discovering to her noble guests, the *borrow'd* splendour of his grandam's side-board. --- The curious anecdote of the capacious *silver utensil*. --- together with the mention of the many lamentably omitted chastisements, for the flagrant enormities of our hero's childhood, by the rare efforts of his ebullient genius wonderfully eluded. . . .

In chap. 2d of the first book, his *childhood and youth amusements and pursuits* are particularly noted ; the author deeply scienced in human nature being well aware, that from *them* the truest judgment of the mind's *natural turn and force* may be settled. Here are related his violent *struggles for distinction* among his school-fellows, --- his *mean tricks* and *bold threats* to obtain his ends, but above all, his profoundly learned, and to the boys quite unintelligible prate ; to avoid which they almost always gave up the point in dispute. --- Here also it is remarked, how he was always chalking out head-lands, islands, harbours, rivers and forts upon the school-fence ; which gave occasion to some of the elder and more waggish lads, to bestow on him the ever-continued appellations of the *wooden geographer*, *castle-builder*, and *mad Tom*, which extremely nettled him --- sometimes when he had drawn a *palace*, or a *fort*, upon any of these his early fancied islands or *plantations*, some rogue or other of them would draw a huge man p-f-g on it ; or Tom himself, with a leather apron and rule, at *work* upon it ; either of which strokes infinitely mortified him.

In chap. 3d and onward, are related the most surprizing achievements, and interesting events, which are to be found in any the most romantic of ancient or later histories. But first of all is noted, his early universal taste and ability of performance, in the arts ; the cometary rapidity with which he *flash'd thro'*
the

the almost boundless *void* of darkest science, and as squire Milton has it “—Thro’ the *palpable obscure* TOIL’D out

His *uncouth way*—————

Here also are related the many *instances* of his unlimited capacity,—his natural or rather supernatural parts,—his innate ideas of geography, the *proofed* evidence of which is so happily for the learned metaphysic-world transcribed entire from the work in folio ; the last part of which evidence the judicious of the editor’s friends think proper to be here mentioned : namely, his indisputable tho’ somewhat astonishing compleat knowledge of all Northern British America ; *at a time* when he had seen but some ten or twenty towns in it---This not the least shadow of doubt can obscure, since our hero himself has been most seriously told so, in the very shelter and assylum of truth, a modern *dedication*.

In book 2d chap. 1st. we are told, that in consequence of his early *inclination to be* a great man, he fix’d his eye upon the navy, and ambitiously aspired to the command of a fleet of war. How in order to effect this, he very much obliged the world and himself, in that most valuable treasury of solid literature, his treatise, upon navigation and the management of a squadron ; which produced so much wit and pleasantry, in conversation, both upon the *matter* and *form*, equally surprising and entertaining. Some little account of which we are here tempted to present to the *forgetful* publick, who will doubtless recollect it, upon the mention of its well-distinguish’d title ; PRINCIPLES OF ADMIRALTY *being the grounds and reasons of* NAVAL EMPIRE. With its dedication to *the author’s god-mother*. A work, says Mr. Thumb, as memorable for its extraordinary effects, as for its masterly execution, and which most wonderfully operated upon every individual person, in the same *two very different ways* ; the whole literate nation being immediately on its appearance seized with the most excruciating head-ach, together with fiery sore eyes---call at a friend’s house about that time, the servant’s eternal answer was, “ Dear sir ! my master’s almost crazy with the head-ach ”! or, “ For God’s sake sir ! speak softly, my master has almost killed himself with a new-printed book ”! In short, the whole body of candid, courteous, and *gentle* readers, to whom books are so generously and pathetically

pathetically address'd, were most wofully given up to profane cursing and swearing; sometimes at the author, but oftner at themselves, and all from the fathomless profundity, and implicated erudition, of this exquisite treatise of *our young hero*; scarce then arrived at his one and twentieth year. But after the first month or two, when the heads and eyes of his majesty's loving, tho' too curious subjects, were restored to their wonted ease; all ranks and degrees of people, conversed of, and quoted from it, with all that satisfaction, and facetious turn, which such a truly original performance, can never fail at last to inspire. A performance, which whether we consider the accurate and spirited reasoning, or the easy flow and more captivating charms of eloquence and style, with which it every where abounds; can never be sufficiently admired.---Among a multitude of rare, and very *advantageous* as well as ingenious discoveries, it is observed, and by the most unheard of, yet *impenetrable*, arguments proved: that the ultimate end of building, equipping, and sending to sea, a fleet, is the *keeping together* that fleet, as a fleet; † and that neither the security, nor happiness of any one, is any end at all of such establishment.---A doctrine, by the whole world hitherto very foolishly embraced, but sufficiently by this immortal work stigmatized and exploded.

Chap. 2, book 2d, proceeds with our hero's ardent ambition for the command of a fleet—and his entring on board as *cabin boy*—the death of the commodore—our hero's sudden rise to a *lieutenancy*—his unremitted assiduity, in all the most irksome tasks, which ever-scheming excessive vanity, necessarily imposes on the eminent coxcombs of mankind—his invincible effrontery in his new station—particularly, his endeavour to thrust himself into a grand council of war, held on board the *marygold*, ADMIRAL BURDOCK; in which no lieutenants had a right to sit: which behaviour of his, was then very narrowly observed, and has since been thoroughly REVIEW'D—his mortifying refusal—his restless ambition and revenge—his violated friendships—his inveterate and dangerous hatreds—his shameless forgeries—his execrable perfidy in return to the confidence and communications of his much deceived friend, then commodore

† Vid. *Princip. of Adm.* P. 113. line 21 to 25.

dore of a squadron—his libelling the commodore—his supplanting him—the commodore's disgrace—our young lieutenants getting the squadron — The whole affair of the *vice admiralship*; its very extensive power, and *almost unheard of* profits. The very advantageous *factory* established at *Trilogscut*, eastward of the squadron, where the re-taken sloop of war *Brazen* was stationed---The *frank* acknowledgments that were made to the admiral, in *proportion* as the station became *lucrative*---and how it gave rise to a *well fee'd* and much hurried *administration*.

In chap. 3d, 4th and 5th, is a very particular account of his behaviour in the fleet.---- How he us'd to go sculling about the yaul, from ship to ship himself.--- And how he run down the poor chaplain, who could not get out of his way.---His *somewhat extraordinary* orders for burning several of the *outermost ships* of the squadron; by the smoke to blind the enemy, and prevent their expected approaches.-----His uncommon neglect of ceremony and character in some things, and somewhat pleasant regard to them in others; often tripping it about on the main deck in *frock* and trowsers, and *little rattan switch*; at other times looking big and exacting the utmost reverence and devotion to the very place where he happen'd to sit.---His exemplary chastisement of a young officer of the *barge*, for his disrespectful negligence in this particular; and ninety-nine other instances of like pleasant attention to publick character, in private and professedly *social* company.---But above all, his most ardent aspiration to the mimicry of majesty, in the very serious and wonderful proposal, of a throne and canopy, to be erected in the aftermost part of the great cabin, of the flag-ship, with two long tables to stretch their perpetuity on either hand, from the throne aforesaid to the cabin door: That upon his entry the whole cabin mess facing inward, at these tables, should rise and with reverential curve of back, pay the most profound obeisance, or fall down and worship this exquisitely pleasant and most striking image of majesty and worth.

Book 3d contains a great variety of curious and surprizing particulars. The whole juvenile and diverting affair of the agency for prize-money; together with some more serious and important

important strokes on the *dark* part of it.—The discharge of the agent as to *time* and *manner*—the expectation that the Admiral would himself *ask* the agency,—that is,—have it.—The Admiral's friends and supporters in all his rare schemes.—His much-envied felicity in that walking library, which affords him all *needed adjutancy*; from the complete collection of the knowledge of the three learned professions, in one omniform Counsellor.—His violent antipathy to the *Conversation* and *OPINIONS* of a certain *unretain'd* lawyer.—And lastly here, his speeches to the officers and pick'd men of the Squadron, *assembled* on board the flag-ship *to hear them*: Their solidity, figure, palpability, aridity, profundity, aeriality and inliquidity: together with that free spirit of wit and humour in conversation, which these speeches *always* diffus'd thro' the whole ship and Squadron.

Book 4th, chap. 1 & 2, records particularly the *arts, means, and instruments*, he employed in his government of the Squadron; more especially in the flag-ship.—How he us'd to creep out on the main deck disguis'd, and talk with the *Sentries* and other common people about ship-affairs; if peradventure he might hear aught of *his own excellency* mentioned, if not much celebrated.—How they sometimes with *galling* Truths, tho' quite undesignedly, would prodigiously agitate him: and at other times seasonably perceiving him, would *evil entreat him*: or in their own wicked words, pay him off d—bly—and how he was oblig'd to grin and bear it all.—How he countenanced and distinguished the dirtiest, most lubberly, mutinous, and despised part of the people—avoiding, as much as possible, the company and conversation of the second in command, and other officers of cabin mess, he was always seen herding with the boatswain, (who was also *GUNNER* and *carpenter*) and other petty officers, and intriguing low fellows of the fore-castle. Of the boatswain the admiral was most surprizingly enamour'd, whose company he could scarcely ever spend an evening without; either in his private apartment near the great cabin, or forward in the boatswain's own birth in the fore-castle; to which last place, he was often known by night to sneak and drink flip.—How he *made much* of the said boatswain, and gave him for driving and managing the deluded jacks, and in token of affection and great familiarity, a silver *whistle* and a *nick name*.

Imme-

Immediately after this in chap. 3, our author particularly narrates—how the said boatswain, in a well known junto of flatterers, parasites, petty officers, and other dirty rascals of the ship, used to flatter, and coax, and threaten, the well-meaning, tho' weak seamen; in order to make them say handsome things of the admiral. And how one morning in particular, by the low cunning and restless affiduity of these *creatures*, they wheedled and trepann'd part of the ship's company, indeed all who were of *the boatswain's watch*, to sign a paper; signifying that Sir THOMAS was a sweet gentleman, as fine a seaman as ever step'd betwixt stem and stern, and a most extraordinary admiral! That the ship, and fleet, had never been so *manag'd*, *trick'd off*, *tallow'd* and *trimm'd*, (all which they to a man agreed in) as since he became *supreme officer*! and that as he was promoted and order'd to the command of another squadron at the southward, they could not but express their *lobscouse* mixture of pleasure and regret, on the *tragicomifarcical* occasion.—That they could not but particularly huzza him as a most excellent patron to *'traffickers*, in the remarkable protection and encouragement he had ever afforded to the bum-boats, and other provisioners and suppliers, on whom the health, and even subsistence of the fleet, was universally acknowledged to depend—and forty other things which neither *they* understood, nor *he* blush'd at!—

And here the ingenious author, fond of episode and digression, enters very curiously in his next chapter, book 5th. chap. 1st. upon the nicest of disquisitions, concerning the infrequency of blushes in the faces of *great men*; or rather such as would be thought so; and with much good sense and sound philosophy, resolves it into this.—No mortals, it may be observ'd (says he) are so much expos'd to flattery, as *these* great men. For being known to want certain qualities, necessary to the fine figure which they reasonably enough conceive themselves born to display; immediately the very kind, disinterested world, dispatch a score or two of inventive, pleasant temper'd men, who by all the arts of opiate flattery, give the most complete ease, happiness and conceit of worth and importance, to the else miserable mortal.

Now blushing is produced from the irritation of the face, by the noxious qualities of certain words and phrases of an addressor. These noxious qualities, are indeed the *acute* and *alkali* particles of the breath, delivered in certain expressions, chiefly of the *adulatory* and *satirical* kinds. Tho' the breath in adulatory expressions, is not allow'd by some, to partake of any *acute* particles; merely from its general effect, viz. a soft and pleasurable sensation. But this I take to be extremely erroneous, and superficial, and to arise from not considering the different effects of acuteness, in its lowest and highest Degrees. For I now appeal to the experience of all the male and *bearded* world, whether any one thing gives greater pleasure, than to be *trimm'd* with the keenest razor : when on the other hand, an ordinary-edg'd, or down-right *blunt* one, gives exquisite *pain*. The force of flattering *expressions*, in raising blushes, must therefore undeniably be admitted, for their *extreme acuteness* is very easily proved, from their allow'd most remarkably insinuating nature. But then, tho' at first the irritated face is very tender, and easily admits those particles, which suddenly rouse the *exasperated* blood, to *express its fine* and *fiery parts* thro' the thin skin: yet upon too frequent and *violent exercise* of this sort, as in many other cases, the agitated parts grow *rigid*. And thus it is, that we are able to observe, that the noxious qualities of flattery, (which indeed are no other than these acute and alkalescent particles of the express'd breath,) surprizingly affect the face-skin of the address'd; harden and *torpidate* it, in such a manner, that in a very little time, whole volleys of *flattering words*, are no more regarded than so many *peas*. And in time a complete external *callus* is form'd throughout the body; and the whole man thus incrust'd; is reduced to an utter insensibility of *flattery* or *satire*.

The author's conjectures here are indeed very curious and entertaining.—He supposes all noxious qualities to arise from *nature perverted* or *obstructed*.—That the expressions of truth, (contrary to the opinion of many learned-divines) is natural to the human mind and frame.—That when flattery is to be produced, especially when it must appear easy and natural, there is required such a multitude of elevations, depressions, distortions, convulsions, &c. of the body, which is *quiet* only in the evacuation

cuation of truth, that there needs must be such noisome, pungent effluvia from the violently agitated fluids, and lungs, as are altogether *unnatural* and *inimical* to *humanity*, and to whatever is in the vicinity of their power and sphere of action.—And this I take to be a *satisfactory* account of the matter.

But to return. (says our author, in a new chap. chap. 2d) As soon as the admiral had received that unexceptionable evidence of his merit, the *testimony of a managed party*, he assembled as had been long customary, the officers, and a fore-castle man or two *pick'd* from each ship in the Squadron, in order to harangue, and be harangued. One he knew was as certain as the other ; and indeed what man alive ignorateth what every good *mother* so repeatedly gives in charge to her little good boy, namely, “ to *speak* when he is *spoken* to.” I have heard an *after-part* to this mentioned, concerning *kissing*, perhaps added by the wagg of elder time to the *maternal* charge : But the politer age in which we live forbids to express, tho’ there are to be found who very readily *comply* with that queer and humiliating precept.—But to go on, (says he) the officers and men assembled as above-mentioned, being call’d all hands into the great cabin and steerage, the *partition* being then taken down; the admiral slow rising from his profound meditation and crimson-velvet chair, with the most ineffable conjunction of grandeur and familiarity, was pleased thus to bespeak them.

“ Gentlemen of the cabin, and gang of the fore-castle,—

When I first had the honour to acquaint you of his highness the lord high-admiral’s *graciously* commissioning me to execute his dominative powers, as by MAGNA CHARTA *established* in this fleet, I not only did *then* express to you, but at the *very same time* did express to you my *high reverence* for the *power* of government as residing in the admiral and for the *sacred* Liberties that should ever *inviolably* remain with the people, and that of the propriety of maintaining both which I had the most thoroughly *convinced* conscience.— That as the *powers* of the admiralty are the *surest basis* of the *sailor’s liberties* ; my design was to *found the basis* of my administration of those powers on the common good of the *universal general communion* of the whole sailorhood. I did hope therefore that no good seaman would refuse his *consenting concurrence* to my intended ex-

erion of power as SUPREME OFFICER in the fleet, as I did choose to have the most absolute and unlimited command (without customary councils) of every ship and sailor in it. But ~~she~~ ^{she} was denyingly refus'd me, and as I was always determin'd that my exertion of *extraordinary power* should at least appear to be chiefly owing to you, I then determin'd to mete other measures and closed that whole matter with telling you, that if ye could not yourselves see the necessity of such a permanent System of well-grounded measures as is necessarily involved in such a deposit of power, or that if the real view of your own *needy* situation could not convince you, *my words could not!*—That if facts themselves could not convince you, *my words could not!*—That if your own eyes could not bring conviction to you, *my words could not!*—

But now (*Gentlemen*) having closed the business of the year last *past*, you may consider of your affairs with regard to *that* which is *approaching*. His lordship the high admiral, supported by the universal general voice and invaried zeal of the whole united nation, is determinately resolved to make a final end and conclusive decision of this contentious and disputeful contest in America. His highness's service and your affairs are wrought up to a crisis—if Newfoundland be not taken the naval empire of the French will fix its root—and if it be not now taken *it never will* be taken. For our affairs not only *are wrought up* to a crisis, but *now* is the very crisis—and *at the same time* that we may *derive* every happy *omen* from the chearful perseverance with which the whole sailorhood supports our most vigorous efforts; *at the same time* it is evident to *demonstration* from ~~the~~ *repulse* which we lately met with, that the *enemy* is *not able* to withstand us.

The *spirit* of this Squadron has been uniformly and invariably *animated* for the general service—This Squadron alway did and alway will bear it's share in the the *universal general* services of the *common communion*, and these are alway best which are founded on a certain conviction and conscientious sense of *this duty*. I therefore do hope for the *concurring consent* of all its orders and members to my measures: for [tho' " those] principles which *found the establishment* of a state or government on the consent of the constituents for the purposes of protection,
prove

prove the dissolution of all government," yet the most *zealous and not able opposer* of such principles may properly endeavour at t^h *to induce the people to measures which tho' fit to be pursued without being determined by the deliberation of all, yet in that case might produce such an uproar of tumult as would be inconsistent with his peace and profits, and ill become a politic Governor to occasion.*

Gentlemen of the gang of the forecattle,

With you gentlemen, as the body of the people do originate those *vigorous supplies*, that must enable the navy to execute its several *powers within itself*. And as a Squadron is "one general universal system of a one whole," it is requisitely necessary that all its parts each of which has its *peculiar properties* should be in *full agreement*, which I think thro' you (good gentlemen) has been this Squadron's praise during my whole command. "By the Blessing of God on the *events* of the last year" the Squadron is in a much better '*site and situation*' than we fear'd, "but all *is not yet effected* which seems absolutely necessary *to be done*"—to join therefore in the completion of this good work we one and all are most willing—we one and all will now set about—we one and all will now most willingly set about. And as money is the surest foundation on which public as well as private happiness is to be raised, I most earnestly therefore do recommend to you—"that no monies be applied to USELESS or WASTEFUL matters, and that it be not FRAUDULENTLY or CAUSELESSLY employed," I shall direct the purser and receiver-general to give an account of what money he is able to advance—tho' here I can't but take notice of what high credit he at present is in, insomuch that he is able to raise whatever you may have occasion for, upon no other security than his own note of hand.

Gentlemen of the cabin and gang of the forecattle,

I by all means do recommend to you industry and a sense of subordination to be diffus'd thro'out the fleet, which last is the only suitable connexion *under which we do ever properly act*, and shall ever attain the good end to which we look—"where this *cement* is not, all things *run together* into confusion". And as to industry I alway do encourage that, but yet let not any one man in the fleet be solicitous of more than one sort of employment

ployment (besides his general duty) whether barber, taylor, cordwainer or other, “ for a certain portion of the universal communion, which in its extent is no more than ~~an office~~ ^{the} wants of one man, is when cultur’d in its various branches by the *various* and *different* powers of *divers* many constituents *equal* and *sufficient* in the whole composite produce to the wants of such a certain number of divers constituents as are proportionate in their powers to the culture of all its branches.

I have lately received an account from commodore *Pebble* that the *Trilogscut* pirates or barbarian corsairs have again desired peace—that they are he thinks as much in earnest as ever pirates were—do now intend to bring in their *crews* and *craft*—but I do still remain opinionated that unless they are *first domiciliate* as other pirates are with Frenchmen, there can be *no treaty held with them*, nor shall I run any risque about it. I have ordered *Pebble* to send them here to me if they agree to what I insist upon, and then they shall be protected—they shall have shallops and other skiffs,—they may cruize or as they term it *hunt* as usual—but the English shall *hunt* also. They not interfere with one another’s *hunt* when they *hunt* separate, and they may *hunt* together when they chuse it—This you remember I did tell them not a great while ago, and at the same time did set *the whole affair off* with such *new* and *apt colours*.

Gentlemen,

I have nothing further to recommend to you but the closest attention to what I have already said, and to those few words with which I must here necessarily pain you. I am promoted to another command!—I am cut off in the prime of naval life from my dear Squadron! His lordship’s will be done!—But the *interest* of this Squadron I alway have fought, and alway do, and alway shall seek; and if ever there should be any services in which my service may be any way serviceable to it, I shall not only alway gladly serve it, but shall endeavour to serve it. In a Word; in the *main business* of this (perhaps) *last cruise* I would have ye strenuously exert yourselves. The shorter the cruise the more money will ye save, and the saving of money has very much *my own* attention.”

Immediately after this the author in book 6th, very particularly relates how a most remarkable occurrence afforded trial
of

of the sincerity of those warm professions of regard, and intended services, in the admiral's above-recited speech—That very soon after this speech which was made in the month of March, there came on the most violent terrible storm for six hours, that was ever known in all North America; in which the *LOYAL OAK* the flag-ship suffer'd most severely, and in her indeed it prodigiously *affected* the whole squadron; great part of her *metal*, provisions, warlike stores, masts, yards, sails, rigging, lost. Her upper works, and some part of her *galleries ruin'd*. In short, she lay almost *a ground* a very wreck. In this most distressed situation, the *Augustus Cutter* which for some time before had been arm'd and sent out as a protection to the bum-boats and other traffickers, constantly expected with supplies for the fleet, admiral BRAZEN propos'd should carry him upon a visit to the LORD HIGH ADMIRAL before he took the command of the southern squadron he was appointed to.—This strange and cruel proposal at a time when the flag-ship was in such distress, and the whole squadron from very frequent and *extraordinary* cruizes was so exhausted as to be able to afford *very little relief* to her; seem'd justly render'd still more so, when it was consider'd that not only the warlike stores and other expected supplies, were by this measure to be left totally unsecured to the fleet; but that for the two or three last cruizes, the very *traders* themselves had generously given tons of rum and other stores to the fleet, equal to the whole charge of maintaining the cutter on these cruizes, upon the express condition of her being so employ'd.

In this affair however Sir Thomas was not the sole object of wonder & resentment, for the author proceeds in chap. 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th of this last book to relate,—how the boatswain (who from his *quadruple alliance* of character in boatswain, gunnier, carpenter and deputy-purser of the flag-ship must naturally be supposed able to whistle and manage great part of the *crew* to almost any thing he pleas'd) was very assiduous and blustering in favour of the admiral.—How *great part* of the pick'd fore-castle hands supported the proposal, and even recommended it to the admiral as the desire of *that whole gang*, and in them that of the whole crew of the squadron—who were the most determined (says he) in this recommendation is not certainly known, but

but it is shrewdly enough suspected, that the *most forward* were JACK SWING, BOB SPRAT and TOM PEWMAN. This last was as well known as any one hand in the fleet, for the *Jacks* were often very merry with him; and soon from his prodigious affection for prate and harangue in a somewhat fanatical tone, they dubb'd him *Parson*; for which character he discovered (forsooth) very great contempt, and immediately chang'd manner, and mightily affected the military stile and character, upon which he was dubb'd *col'nel*, which tickled him not a little; but some unlucky Jacks in a very short time settled it the *preaching colonel*; (than which character nothing in the present age inspires stronger contempt.) And one or other of them was always *girding* at him; sometimes with great solemnity of phrase & face, addressing him, would begin "*Reverend Colonel*: at other times, and most frequently, would deal somewhat plainly, telling him of his unfaithfulness in his master's *vineyard*, that it now produced only the *degenerate* plant of a *strange vine*, that *the grapes were those of Sodom and the clusters of Gomorrah*; all which most intimately mortified him, for he could as little bear any quotation in his presence from scripture, as could the poor fellow who had stood in the pillory, the sight of a *pudding* or *custard*, or even the bare mention of *eggs*. As for *Sprat* (says he) he was very generally esteemed a clever fellow & a trusty hand when he sail'd only in a merchant-man, but after he enter'd on board a man of war, he contemptibly enough affected to despise his former merchant-employers to whom he owed all that large share of *practical navigation* which he had so *fortunately* added to his justly allow'd science.—His real friends and well-wishers cou'd not but very humanely pity his many errors & miscarriages, after his head had been so turn'd with the Admiral's *particular notice* of him—particular indeed—for so many *tricks* had he *at helm*, that the whole Squadron may properly eno' be said to have been *tack'd* and *veer'd* and *press'd* and *plung'd* almost entirely under his management, so rely'd on by the admiral; but in justice to themselves as well as pity to him, all hands seem'd at last to indulge the pleasing hope of the speedy reduction of him, from his wild steerage, to *reason* and a *common station*, which it was said he had given out he would not return to.

SWING (says our author) was esteemed a very extraordinary

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nary tho' dull fellow *all the voyage*, always bearing about him such a *large* somewhat as was thought by many to rise almost to an appearance of design and cunning, insomuch that from that and his everlasting wrangling and dark prate, he was called the Politician; and one of the clerks of the ship very fond of Hudibras, us'd to quote these Lines at him——

“ So politic as if one eye
Upon the other were a spie,
That to trepan the one to think
The other blind, *both strove to blink*.
He made the stoutest yield to mercy,
When he engag'd in controversy;
Not by the force of carnal reason,
But *indefatigable* teasing:
Nor law, nor cavalcade of *Ho'born*
Could render him a grain the less stubborn:
For he at any time would *hang*,
For th'opportunity to *harangue*”.—

In short so many, and so notorious, have been his fruitless mutinies, senseless oppositions, unnatural pacts, and awkward conjunctions, with other the like enormities and absurdities, arising from principles so very different, so contradictory, that he will ever be remember'd with that honest warmth of mixt passion which busy dullness and perverseness inspire.


Here the author draws towards a conclusion of his very faithful and (as he humbly apprehends) very serviceable performance, with a somewhat too particular narration of what passed in the great cabin relative to the Cutter: And lest the editor should now be charg'd by some with that *tediousness* which in this part of the work he honestly confesses they must complain of in the author, he here chooses to close this very large specimen with what the author concludes his performance—Speaking of the Admiral's principal *adjutancy* and support in this last affair; he says— ‘ Of all the *cabin mess* his greatest dependence was on one truly omnigenous and wonderful counsellor, whose prompt advice was ever so delightfully received, and the entire strain of whose sentiments so conspir'd with those

of the admiral, that the whole world perhaps may be defy'd to produce a single instance in which they ever disagreed, except (which was indeed frequent) in the two articles of dress and cookery; Sir Thomas ever contending that a tye wig, baze gown, check trowsers, sword and slippers, were a conjunction of particulars most absurdly heterogeneous; and to enter the great cabin in this unsystematic and discordant dress, was so highly indecent, that his often added pipe of tobacco with them, but very little enhanc'd the offence. On the other hand, it was ever reply'd, that tho' he could by no means see the impropriety of his own *really studied*, tho' unhappily offensive dress, yet the very easy and familiar example which *Sir Thomas* himself affected, and had often propos'd to imitation, by sitting in the admiralty CHAIR without sword, in a plain short frock, unruffled shirt, together with scratch wig and little rattan—had always to him appear'd too unadvis'd, too careless and diminutive.

*Thus they in mutual accusation spent
Their fruitless hours, but neither self condemning,
And of their vain contest appear'd no End.* MILT.

Nil agit exemplum, litem quod lite resolvit. HOR.

Their differences also in cookery were very wide and very general. Sir Thomas indeed went wholly upon system. The other gentleman had no system of any kind. The one was for a lonely shoulder of mutton at table. The other could never have enough variety and incongruity. This last chose the *strong*, the *saucy*, and the *high-season'd*. The other prefer'd the *light*, the *juiceless*, and the *plain dress'd*. But let them like as they might, whenever they happen'd in good company, they *both* very generally met with the *roast*, which one *always* endeavour'd to rule.



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